
WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON
HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Food Assistance: USDA's Food Nutrition Service (FNS) is delivering food and facilitating Food Stamp Program delivery in affected states (including host states). Prior to Katrina making landfall, USDA had proactively pre-positioned food in warehouses in Louisiana and Texas to make them readily available for the affected area. Since the storm, 278 truckloads of commodities (11 million pounds) and 35 truckloads of baby formula and other baby foods (1.2 million pounds) have been diverted from existing sources or purchased for affected states. Most will be used for congregate feeding, 6 truckloads of household size commodities have been ordered due to difficulty with adequate coverage through the Food Stamp Program. To help with that issue, USDA has authorized and encouraged states to pre-load electronic food benefit (EBT) cards with \$50 worth of assistance, which will enable displaced residents to immediately purchase food even before their application has been processed to receive complete benefits. These cards can then be distributed to displaced residents as they move from shelters to temporary housing. Additionally, USDA is assessing the impact of evacuated families and children moving to other states, including Texas and Florida. This will include impacts on school districts that are currently and will soon experience an increase in the number of reimbursements for free and reduced cost school meals and the overall demand for commodities in order to meet their nutritional needs.

Housing Assistance: USDA Rural Development is coordinating with the private sector to identify privately owned rental housing nationwide that is available to house displaced residents. In addition to this, USDA Rural Development has made available 3,000 vacant housing units in the affected region for immediate placement of those who have not left the region. Also, there are 30,000 housing units across the country that the USDA Rural Development program has made available to displaced residents. USDA is coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and faith-based organizations to match residents left homeless by Hurricane Katrina with these homes and apartments. Eligibility requirements associated with the rural housing program are being waived to expedite the relocation process. Additionally, the 50,000 low-income residents in the affected areas who have mortgages through USDA are being notified of a 90-day minimum moratorium on payments to reduce the financial hardship. To begin looking to long-term relief needs, USDA is assembling teams to send into the area to facilitate grant and loan applications for the rebuilding process.

Community Infrastructure: Several million people are being impacted by inoperable electricity and sewer and water infrastructure previously financed by USDA Rural Development. USDA is providing a 90-day moratorium on debt collection on electric, water and community facilities programs in the affected states. Information is being delivered to community leaders on assistance available for identifying capital improvement needs. Jump teams to assist applicants and process applications are being organized, along with coordinating technical assistance through contracted technical assistance service providers. Additionally, USDA Rural Development is coordinating work with rural water associations to procure and send generators into the affected area. Several utility companies from Florida, South Carolina, and Alabama

have also sent crews to the Mississippi Rural Water Association offices for technical assistance. USDA Rural Development is also beginning to look at long term relief needs. The agency has about 1,500 facilities in the affected region that are financed through USDA's Community Facilities program. These facilities range from rural schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, and public buildings. USDA has established a team to conduct assessments of these facilities with priority given to the hospitals and nursing home properties. Additionally, USDA is assembling teams to go into the area to facilitate grant and loan applications for rebuilding.

Agricultural Commodity Movement Infrastructure: New Orleans ports account for 65-70 percent of all grain exports. Last year, 22 percent of wheat, 71 percent of corn, 65 percent of soybean exports went through Louisiana ports. Until the ports reach full capacity, grain storage capacities in the Midwest will continue to tighten. Nevertheless, indications are that the Mississippi River is beginning to open to noteworthy levels of ship and barge traffic. Additionally, there are 13 grain export elevators in the region – 10 on land and 3 floating rigs that can unload barges and transfer to ocean-bound vessels. In total their capacity is over 53 million bushels of grain or nearly 1.5 million metric tons, capable of loading 850,000 bushels of grain per hour (combined total) onto vessels, if they are all operational. Of 13 facilities, 8 are currently operational. Therefore, our current grain export elevator operating capacity is currently about 56% of normal and this has the potential to reach 91% by the end of this week.

Farmer and Rancher Assistance: In response to Hurricane Katrina, USDA State Emergency Boards began meeting on August 31 to coordinate agricultural-related responses at the county, state and national levels in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Crop and livestock damage assessments are forthcoming, but losses are expected to poultry, dairy, beef cattle, sugar, catfish, soybeans, cotton, and rice. USDA has several disaster programs for qualified farm operators, including low-interest emergency loans the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

USDA Personnel Deployed: USDA has deployed 2,760 Forest Service employees who are trained in rescue and response to large-scale incidents to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These teams have expertise in setting up logistics staging areas, distribution of food products and debris removal. In addition, the Forest Service has devoted aircraft to facilitate the airlift of 325 New York City Fire Department personnel to support the City of New Orleans.

Food Safety: USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service is providing information pertaining to keeping food safe during power outages. Immediately prior to the hurricane making landfall, USDA issued public advisories throughout the affected region and this has continued through various available communications tools following the hurricane's passing. Consumers can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 24 hours a day at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854); for the hearing-impaired (TTY) 1-800-256-7072. Since the hurricane, questions coming into USDA's various food safety contact sources break out as follows: basic food safety questions are up 26%, power failure questions have doubled, internal cooking temperature

questions are up 12.5%, beverage questions have doubled, but foodborne illness questions are down nearly 29%.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC)

Three NOAA Navigation Response Teams are surveying priority channel and port locations. A fourth survey team is en route from California to supply additional survey capacity. The surveys help determine when ports can be reopened by the Coast Guard. NOAA has surveyed the Mississippi River from its mouth to north of the New Orleans airport, clearing a channel for tanker traffic to the Shell Oil refinery. Initial surveys to permit transit of emergency supplies, fuel, navy vessels, and cruise ship berthing capacity for housing of displaced persons have been completed in Biloxi, Mobile, Gulfport, Pensacola, Pascagoula, and Port Fourchon. Full surveys should be completed in 3-4 weeks.

The NOAA Contract Ship DAVIDSON has completed surveys of the Southwest Pass entrance to the Mississippi River.

The NOAA Hydrographic Survey Vessel NANCY FOSTER is surveying the sea approaches to Mobile Bay. Once this surveying is completed in the next 2-3 weeks, the Coast Guard will direct the team to survey additional offshore priorities.

The NOAA Ship THOMAS JEFFERSON will arrive on Friday in the New Orleans area to **survey the approaches to the Mississippi River** to allow for full shipping access to the river. This is expected to be completed in 2-3 weeks.

Products from NOAA detailed aerial surveys (digital photography) of impacted coastal areas are available online for governmental and private party use.

NOAA has restored contact with 10 of its 12 weather monitoring buoys in the Gulf of Mexico. Despite the loss of some weather prediction and observation capacity, NOAA has sufficient coverage for the current hurricane season.

NOAA will be working to determine the impacts of the storm on living marine resources, including commercial and recreational fisheries that are economically important to the region. NOAA efforts to work with local communities to restore coastal wetlands that are important both ecologically and economically will also continue as soon as it is feasible.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service will determine the storm's impact on the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet, oyster industry, and other important fisheries.

NOAA is currently examining federal fishery regulations in the Gulf of Mexico for potential management options **to ease the regulatory burden on commercial and recreational fishermen, while continuing to protect the marine resources.** NOAA will also complete an assessment of the storm's impacts on habitat and fishery resources in the Gulf.

NOAA HAZMAT Scientific Support Coordinator from New York City is in Louisiana to direct information gathering on the impacts of potential oil spills. NOAA HAZMAT is working to catalog spills to evaluate pollution risk and prioritize appropriate action.

The **Bureau of Economic Analysis** will estimate **hurricane costs not captured by regular source data** as part of the 3rd quarter GDP and other indicators for August and September.

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is working closely with the DHS staff regarding utilization of the Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS). DHS and BIS are finalizing the scope of the initial DPAS authorization required. Specifically, **DHS is seeking to prioritize procurement of goods and services to support the restoration effort.**

The International Trade Administration and Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) are working with the Interagency team to prioritize restoration of the Air Products and Chemical (APC) liquid hydrogen production facility in New Orleans. The APC facility accounts for 31% of the Nation's liquid hydrogen supply, and a total of 44% of liquid hydrogen supply has been lost due to a previously scheduled shut down of APC's hydrogen plant in Canada. Liquid hydrogen is an essential commodity for the steel and petrochemical industries and public utilities, as well as NASA and the Air Force.

The Economic Development Administration is also reviewing economic development recovery plans from previous disasters (9-11 and Hurricane Andrew) in anticipation of a similar effort for Hurricane Katrina.

The National Telecommunications and Communications Administration (NTIA) has granted the use of 51 VHF and UHF frequency assignments for use by fire center personnel deployed to the disaster area. **NTIA has also authorized an additional 6 channels to FEMA** for interoperable communications between federal, state, and local public safety and emergency response agencies in the area.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

- According to Colonial Pipeline officials, full power has been restored to the pipeline at 2PM on 9/5/05 and is now at 100% of pumping capacity.
- Less than 990,000 customers remain without electric power due to Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, and Mississippi. This is down by 1.7 million from a peak of about 2.7 million customers that were without power after Hurricane Katrina struck the region. Alabama has less than 9,000 (1%) of customers remaining without electric power and is no longer reporting.
- Most of New Orleans remains without power; however, Entergy crews have returned to the city for the first time since the hurricane hit to assess the situation.

- DOE continues to work with the FEMA HQ Fuel Task Force to examine and mitigate emergency fuel supply issues.
- The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) has been operating at almost full capacity today but Entergy has not yet restored power to the Clovelly storage facility. The LOOP expects to be at full capacity when Fourchon gets power, which should occur in about 7 days. LOOP currently is delivering crude oil to the Capline pipeline. Tankers are making crude deliveries to the LOOP. The US Navy is using sonar to help identify obstructions near the marine terminal so safe paths for large vessels can be marked.
- The Capline pipeline system is now running at 960,000 barrels a day, which is over 80 percent of capacity.
- According to the Monday MMS reports, 27.83 percent of 819 manned platforms and 27.61 percent of 137 rigs have been evacuated in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Today's shut-in oil production is 1,043,681 BOPD. The shut-in oil production is equivalent to 69.57% of the daily oil production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 1.5 million BOPD. This represents a 5 percent improvement from yesterday's figures. Today's shut-in gas production is 5.225 BCFPD. This shut-in gas production is equivalent to 54.13% of the daily gas production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 10 BCFPD. This represents a 2 percent improvement from yesterday's figures.
- There are media reports that Katrina may have damaged key natural gas processing facilities on the Gulf Coast, which could delay a recovery of gas supplies. Several plants may have been affected.
- According to the Association of Oil Pipelines, the Dixie Pipeline (a propane line) is operating at approximately 50% (2 million gallons per day) of normal capacity.
- As of 9:00 pm Sunday night at least 55 miles of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway was still closed to navigation (from Mile Marker 15 to Mile Marker 70.) This is in the area between the Lower Mississippi and Gulfport, Mississippi. The US Coast Guard is surveying the waterway and replacing navigational aids at a rate of about 20 miles per day. At this rate the entire waterway should be open between the Lower Mississippi and all points east by the end of Wednesday. The Port of Gulfport is still closed and the Port of Pascagoula is only allowing vessels to operate in the day, if they have draughts of less than 12 feet. Other ports east of Pascagoula (in AL and FL) are open.
- Port of Mobile is operating during daylight hours only with temporary navigation aids in place. The Mississippi River is now officially open to ships with a draft of 35 feet during daylight hours. The US Army Corps of Engineers is currently dredging the channel so that Shell Oil company's dock can receive a 40-foot draught crude oil tanker (arriving in

a few days), to traverse channel and safely dock and unload. Currently the channel to Shell can only take ships with a draught of 38 feet or less.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

EPA emergency response personnel are working in partnership with FEMA to help assess the damage and prepare for cleanup from Katrina. EPA is responsible for the cleanup of hazardous materials, including oil and gasoline. Our national and regional Emergency Operations Centers are activated 24 hours a day.

Recovery – EPA search and rescue operations continue. Food and water were distributed and an additional 120 people were rescued. Approximately, 770 rescues have been made by EPA in LA. Sixty-five EPA watercraft are currently available for rescue efforts.

Water Analysis – Collection of flood water samples began 9/3 in downtown New Orleans. Samples were shipped to a Houston lab and a local lab in Lafayette, LA for analysis. Results are expected mid-week. Daily sampling is ongoing.

Public Advisory – On 9/4, EPA issued an advisory to the public urging caution when disposing of household hazardous waste and asbestos-containing debris from storm-damaged homes and other buildings. The advisory was issued as a press release from EPA headquarters and regions 4 and 6.

Water Assessment – EPA estimates the number of water systems affected by the hurricane is now 73 in AL, 468 in MS and 469 in LA. In AL, many water systems were disabled or impaired by loss of electrical power. Eight systems in AL currently have boil water advisories. EPA is continuing its assessment of damage to local drinking water systems in MS, and providing technical assistance to help restore safe drinking water to those systems. EPA is sending a mobile laboratory to MS to assist the state Department of Public Health in drinking water analysis. Boil water notices have been issued to 468 water systems in MS. Samples from these systems will be analyzed for total fecal coliform bacteria before the systems restore service. EPA is assisting the LA Department of Health and Hospitals in assessing drinking water and will deploy 30 more EPA personnel to LA during this week. There are approximately 378 drinking water systems that are not in operation in LA with another 48 systems on a boil water notice. Two EPA mobile labs will arrive in Louisiana week of 9/5. These labs provide analytical services as drinking water service is restored to communities.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities – EPA continues to assess wastewater treatment facilities in LA, MS and AL. EPA estimates the number of wastewater treatment facilities affected is now 13 in AL, 114 in LA and 85 in MS.

Air Surveillance - EPA's environmental surveillance aircraft (ASPECT) is being used to assess spills and chemical releases. On 9/4, a large oil spill was surveyed in Chalmette, LA (Murphy Oil). A 250,000 barrel tank containing 85,000 barrels of oil released beyond secondary

containment and extended into a residential area. The company and its contractors are working with EPA and the Coast Guard to repair the storage tank, contain the oil and begin cleanup. EPA and state officials continue to collect air quality information from daily aerial helicopter inspections of facilities. On-the-ground inspections of these facilities will provide additional information in the coming weeks. Air assessments of spills and chemicals releases in New Orleans and surrounding area continued via helicopter on 9/5.

Incident Management Team – On 9/2 EPA deployed a 17 person Incident Management Team (IMT) to Baton Rouge to integrate with LA officials and manage EPA's field operations. Deployment of a second full IMT to the LA area is being coordinated with anticipated mobilization on 9/6.

Peer Support & Critical Incident Stress Management Team – EPA has deployed CISM team members to Baton Rouge, LA and will deploy two CISM Team members to Jackson, MS on 9/7 to consult with all EPA staff conducting field operations in areas impacted by the hurricane.

Fuel Waivers – On 9/2, EPA granted a limited waiver from the reformulated gasoline (RFG) requirement for gasoline sold in the Richmond, VA, metropolitan area through 9/9. In consultation with DOE, we are closely monitoring gasoline supplies as we consider requests for waivers in other areas. On 9/1, EPA granted Georgia's request to waive its state sulfur requirement through 9/15 which required clean burning gasoline to be sold in the 45-county area of Atlanta. On 8/31, to alleviate possible fuel shortages across the country and to help meet emergency demand, EPA granted a nationwide fuel waiver that allows refiners, importers, distributors, carriers and retail outlets to supply gasoline and diesel fuels that do not meet standards for emissions. The temporary waiver is in effect through 9/15.

Hazardous Waste Disposal - EPA personnel continue to oversee and offer technical assistance in the disposal of hazardous waste and other debris left behind by the storm. Teams are working closely with the Coast Guard to conduct assessments of potential oil spills and chemical releases caused by the hurricane.

Technical Expertise – EPA will be assessing environmentally safe clearance standards for residences and commercial buildings. EPA has practical and scientific expertise in the environmental health hazards caused by flood waters, especially the effects of molds and mildew, and in the disposal of household hazardous waste and asbestos-containing materials from storm-damaged buildings.

Emergency Call Center – EPA expects to deploy 30-50 personnel from the Region 5 (Chicago) office to assist staffing of the FEMA Emergency Call Center that will register people who are applying for federal assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The call center is anticipated to be operational on September 8th.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice is committed to helping maintain law and order in the affected areas. Federal Law Enforcement Operations – **All DOJ law enforcement agencies are working in New Orleans and from relocation sites in Shreveport and Baton Rouge to continue enforcing Federal laws.**

In addition to his daily communication with the U.S. Attorneys in Louisiana, the Attorney General has directed additional resource commitments from:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (to continue to deploy agents (including SWAT agents) and tactical assets (including helicopters, boats, and technical/communications assets));

The Drug Enforcement Administration (to prepare to deploy Mobile Enforcement Teams, special agents, and tactical assets (including helicopters and other aircraft));

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (to establish a Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with related VCIT personnel and assets, to address any rise in criminal activity in that city); and

The United States Marshals Service (to continue to deploy Deputy U.S. Marshals and Court Security Officers to conduct prisoner transport operations and provide additional court security and to prepare to utilize the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) to deploy law enforcement personnel to airports around the country as needed).

Assistance to State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies – Over the weekend, the Attorney General received and granted requests from Governor Barbour and Governor Blanco for DOJ law enforcement assistance, including the assistance of Deputy U.S. Marshals. Even prior to receiving those requests, DOJ components – drawing upon our longstanding close relations with state and local law enforcement – were assisting them to the maximum extent possible. FBI, ATF, DEA, and USMS, and BOP have responded to requests from state and local agencies for communications, air support, HAZMAT, medical, and other assistance. USMS personnel have been deployed to assist with the transport and security of stockpile supplies. DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance will also be making millions of dollars of grant money immediately available to state and local law enforcement entities in the affected areas.

In conjunction with the Attorney General of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Corrections, the BOP and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana have deployed personnel to a newly created Justice Center in downtown New Orleans. The Center will be used to process and hold individuals arrested for crimes committed in New Orleans.

At the request of the Louisiana Department of Corrections, BOP has agreed to assume custodial responsibility of 1,000 state inmates due to overcrowding in one of Louisiana's state prisons.

The Attorney General has authorized the use, for disaster-recovery-related purposes, of forfeited assets in current inventory of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Federal Courts – The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana is communicating with the Chief Judge of the court regarding reestablishing court operations to prosecute federal crimes that occur in New Orleans. USMS and BOP continue to provide assistance for transfer and relocation of federal and state prisoners.

Protecting the Integrity of Relief Efforts – The Attorney General is establishing a task force to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related Federal crimes such as insurance fraud and charity fraud.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Secretary Mike Leavitt **declared a Federal Public Health Emergency for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida on August 31 and Texas on September 5.**

Secretary Leavitt and a team of health care, public health and human service leaders traveled to New Orleans, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; Houston, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Meridian, MS; from September 3-4. Secretary Leavitt is making sure the full range of health and human services are reaching evacuees in shelter facilities throughout the region and country, including medical care, mental health care, social services, and public health expertise to prevent outbreak of disease.

HHS is working with federal partners, including the Department of Defense (DoD), to establish **40 Federal Medical Shelters throughout the affected areas for a potential of 10,000 medical shelter beds, if needed.** Over 800 US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps officers are in Mississippi and Louisiana to staff the first 10 medical shelters and other HHS missions. Additional staff for the medical shelters will come from a variety of sources including other federal departments such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and healthcare professional volunteers from the private sector.

HHS has delivered more than 100 tons of medical supplies into the Gulf Coast region via truck and supply flights from the Strategic National Stockpile. The pallets are packaged in approximately four foot cubes and contain basic first-aid material (such as bandages, pads, ice packs, etc.), blankets and patient clothing, suture kits, sterile gloves, stethoscopes, blood pressure measuring kits, portable oxygen tanks and other equipment. **Over 50 tons have reached Mississippi alone.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention delivered 2,209 cases of IV solutions to Louisiana. CDC has shipped 90,000 doses tetanus/diphtheria vaccine; 22,000 doses of hepatitis A vaccine; 36,000 doses of hepatitis B vaccine; 100,000 doses of antibiotics such as Ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, and amoxicillin; and maintenance medications for chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, anxiety and other conditions. Additionally, 30,000 vials of insulin have been delivered to Mississippi (10,000 vials) and Louisiana (20,000 vials).

HHS, cooperating with FEMA and EPA, will **lead an environmental task force to assess the habitability of New Orleans**. The team became operational on September 6 at 8:00 am and will work from a forward command post at Kindred Hospital in New Orleans. Public health teams, including specialization in toxicology, sanitation, epidemiology, and food safety are augmenting state and local public health resources in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas.

HHS has identified mental health as a major concern among evacuees and has dispatched teams to Houston, Beaumont, San Antonio, and Dallas, TX. HHS mental health professionals are coordinating with officials in Louisiana, Mississippi, and other affected areas.

HHS human service teams are on the ground assessing HHS children and family support programs in affected areas. Guidance and waivers to states increasing the flexibility of benefits, such as Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicare, and Medicaid, have been issued.

HHS regularly disseminates public health messages (PSAs) warning about the safe consumption of food and water. HHS is also warning the public to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning from the use of generators. HHS is assessing and responding to mental health and human services needs in the region.

HHS has set up a toll-free phone number--**1-866-KATMEDI** (1-866-528-6334)-- and a web site--**<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>**—for health care professionals and relief personnel who want to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. **8,000 volunteers have already registered** through the toll-free phone number and website.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

General HUD Information

There are 436,800 units of HUD-assisted housing in the affected region. This number includes 15,500 units of elderly housing and 2,500 units of housing for the disabled in the affected areas. These units house approximately 1.1 million people. The Housing Authority of New Orleans has an inventory of approximately 8,100 public housing units. At the time of the Hurricane, it had issued 8,700 Section 8 Housing vouchers in New Orleans. The combination of these two housing sources provided housing to over 40,000 people.

All HUD operations performed out of the New Orleans, LA Field Office have been transferred to the Fort Worth, TX Regional Office.

To provide up-to-date information on HUD's operations in the affected hurricane areas to its employees and to the general public, HUD established a toll-free number 888-297-8685. A live operator is available 0700 to 2000 CDT.

Secretary Jackson placed calls to Governors Blanco (LA), Barbour (MS), Riley (AL), and Bush (FL) on August 31, 2005. Follow-up faxes of the HUD Hurricane Response sheet were sent to the three Governors and their DC offices on September 1, 2005.

Secretary Jackson has been in touch with the United States Conference of Mayor's (USCM) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to seek their support in coordinating the identification of housing opportunities for the hurricane victims. They have responded by setting up links on their website for mayors, communities, and individuals to register housing assistance assets.

HUD is currently receiving a tremendous response to this request with cities and counties offering housing and transportation to displaced persons. Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Detroit, MI, and Mayor John Street, Philadelphia, PA telephoned the Secretary on September 1, 2005 to offer housing for over 1,000 displaced individuals. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania has also offered to house 1,000 persons and Miami-Dade has offered to house 3,000. HUD is currently working with FEMA to match displaced individuals with vacant housing.

HUD has also received information from USCM and NACo on medical services being offered to the victims of the disaster. HUD has referred this information to FEMA that was able to utilize a portable hospital in New Orleans and a hospital that treated 900 evacuees in Beaumont, Texas.

The Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) e-mailed a letter to the Secretary with their commitment to collaborate with HUD to rebuild in the hurricane affected areas on behalf of the low-income population. The National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) notified HUD on September 1, 2005, of their intent to broadcast HUD Hurricane response material to their officials.

HUD is supporting the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) in setting up operations with other PHAs. HANO is fully operational at the Houston Housing Authority, with a satellite office at the Atlanta Housing Authority. HANO has also set up offices in Dallas and Atlanta and can be reached at 713-652-2924.

In response to a request from FEMA, HUD has assigned Charles "Hank" Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing, to help lead the Joint Housing Solutions Center in Baton Rouge, LA. He will arrive Saturday, September 3, 2005. HUD has identified 50 other employees who will be deployed as soon as they have the proper inoculations.

HUD is currently setting up "one-stop shopping" centers in locales with large congregations of displaced individuals e.g. Astrodome, Reunion Arena, DC Armory, etc. These centers allow HUD officials to meet with displaced individuals and determine how HUD can assist them in finding more appropriate temporary housing or permanent housing in the host city. Please find attached an application form that is currently being used in Dallas/Fort Worth.

Public and Indian Housing

The Public and Indian Housing Information and Resource Center (PIH-IRC) will provide reference and referral disaster information in response to requests for available housing. The priority at this time is to meet the immediate housing needs of disaster victims, in particular current public housing and voucher families, by identifying available public housing and support services in desired relocation or surrounding areas. The call center is available from 0800 to 2000 CDT, 7 days a week. Call Center number is 1-800-955-2232.

HUD has prepared disaster procedures for all Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receiving displaced public housing and voucher participants from disaster affected areas. The guidance will instruct Housing Authorities on the procedures they should use in processing affected families.

HUD's Houston Disaster Team, the Houston Housing Authority, and the Dallas Housing Authority are assisting in the processing of public housing residents at the Houston Astrodome. They will also have materials available on local shelters and other assistance available for displaced families.

HUD staff in Houston coordinated the presence of local Housing Agency and multifamily project staff to offer assistance through their programs. The Harris County HA, located almost across the street from the Astrodome, assisted 200 families on Friday and will be processing another 180 over the weekend.

Representatives from the Texas Department of Emergency Management contacted the HUD's San Antonio Office concerning the housing of displaced persons at the new Kelly USA facility in San Antonio. The former Kelly AFB, the facility began receiving their first busloads from New Orleans today. The San Antonio and Bexar County PHAs are doing intake for their programs at Kelly USA. Staff from the San Antonio Office has been supporting the coordination and delivery of services at this new shelter.

Section 8 administrative fees set aside for emergencies (\$1.3 million) can be used for administrative services such as staffing and establishing offices. These funds may not be used for vouchers and are available after an assessment of the requesting Housing Authority's needs and requirement.

Imminent threat grants are available to Indian Tribes that had a direct impact from the disaster (\$2.3 million). Public Housing Authorities must submit an application and the funds become available on a first-come first-serve basis as soon as the request is received and approved by HUD.

An emergency set-aside for emergency capital needs resulting from natural disasters and unforeseen emergencies occurring in FY 2005 is available (\$29.7 million). These funds can only be used for projects that had a direct impact and cannot be used for host cities. Public Housing Authorities must submit an application and the funds become available on a first-come first-serve basis as soon as the request is received and approved by HUD.

Housing

The Office of Housing issued, on August 30, 2005, a mortgagee letter reminding lenders of the 203(h) disaster program and requiring servicers to suspend all foreclosure actions in counties

declared federal disaster areas and to consider hurricane damage in the context of any requests for loss mitigation assistance.

Ginnie Mae issued, on August 30, 2005, a letter to all issuers of Ginnie Mae Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) identifying various forms of forbearance, including assistance in making payment to MBS investors where homeowners are unable to make payment, and delinquent loans in affected areas are not included in delinquency statistics used in risk monitoring.

HUD has reviewed vacant HUD-owned single-family homes within a 500-mile radius of the affected areas, and identified 5,600 units that will be made available for temporary housing.

HUD's Section 203(k) loan program enables homebuyers and homeowners who have lost their homes to finance both the purchase and/or refinancing of a house and the cost of its rehabilitation through a single mortgage. It also allows homeowners who have damaged houses to finance the rehabilitation of their existing single-family home. This program encourages lenders to make mortgages available to borrowers who would not otherwise qualify for conventional loans on affordable terms and to residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Loans are available to nonprofits and government entities for purchase of Real-Estate Owned properties that could then be sold to individuals. \$70 million is currently available for this purpose.

Community Planning and Development

CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG grantees may reprogram previously awarded grants to redirect their focus to disaster recovery activities but grantees MUST provide citizens reasonable notice and opportunity to comment, and notify HUD of substantial amendments for CDBG and HOME. ESG reprogramming requires HUD approval.

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

FHEO has identified \$1.2 million in available Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHAP) funding to provide focused outreach and education activities on the Fair Housing Act to potential complainants, realtors, and landlords in and around the affected area including areas where displaced New Orleans' residents have relocated. Historically, disasters produce an increase in Fair Housing Act violations and resulting complaints. In an effort to control the spread of violations and to provide information to potential complainants, FHEO will initiate an extension outreach and education campaign. Activities will include Public Service Announcements (PSAs), dissemination, and distribution of pamphlets and flyers, and contracting with fair housing agencies to target the specific needs of their communities. \$1 million of the available FHAP funding will expire at the end of the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (DOI)

Minerals Management Service (MMS), part of the DOI, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. MMS Hurricane Katrina Evacuation and Production Shut-in Statistics for the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) as of September 5, 2005.

- The equivalent of 27.83% of 819 manned platforms and 27.61% of 137 rigs currently operating in the GOM remain evacuated. The number of manned platforms that are evacuated declined 25 percent from Saturday.
- Today's shut-in oil production is 1,043,681 BOPD. This shut-in oil production is equivalent to 69.57% of the daily oil production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 1.5 million BOPD. This is a 5 percent improvement from previously reported figures.
- Today's shut-in gas production is 5.225 BCFPD. This shut-in gas production is equivalent to 54.13% of the daily gas production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 10 BCFPD. This is a 2 percent improvement from previously reported figures.
- The cumulative shut-in oil production for the period 8/26/05-9/5/05 is 11,985,960 bbls, which is equivalent to 2.189% of the yearly production of oil in the GOM which is approximately 547.5 million barrels.
- The cumulative shut-in gas production 8/26/05-9/5/05 is 64.087 BCF, which is equivalent to 1.756% of the yearly production of gas in the GOM which is approximately 3.65 TCF.

MMS monitoring, reporting and responding to energy supply

MMS has also provided 10 helicopters for search and rescue missions in the region.

MMS is communicating with energy operators regarding the status of production and exploration facilities and providing daily updates on the web and to all major news organizations on key Gulf of Mexico production statistics. MMS is tracking all incident reports in the Gulf of Mexico, and is coordinating with the energy operators to address the mutual need for helicopters to perform fly over inspections. The MMS New Orleans district performed a fly over of key facilities in the hurricane's path to assess status. GOM regional operations, temporarily located in Houston, are advising companies on their plans to bring production back on line.

No spills related to oil and gas production have been reported. Offshore platforms have extensive safety systems, with shut-off valves generally at or below the sea floor so they are not affected by wind and waves. MMS is coordinating with the Coast Guard as a contingency for oil spill response.

Other Interior efforts:

As part of the National Response Plan, the Department of the Interior supports Federal interagency efforts to assist State and local emergency response. The Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture are currently deploying "Incident Management Teams" to support FEMA recovery activities in the disaster areas. These teams are trained and experienced in wildland fire response, and have agreed under "Emergency Support Function 4 - Firefighting" of the National Response Plan to assist with coordination of operational and logistics activities during disasters. Teams are being deployed in LA, MS and AL. DOI has provided a total of 775 employees as part of this interagency effort.

The Bureau of Reclamation is supporting the US Army Corps of Engineers, lead agency for organizing Federal support under the National Response Plan for Emergency Support Function 3 - Public Works and Engineering. Bureau of Reclamation personnel are now being deployed to assist with a wide variety of tasks including assistance for remediation of levee breaches in LA.

The Bureau of Reclamation is poised to deploy a water purification unit to Mississippi that can provide up to 200,000 gallons of drinking water per day.

Reclamation has mobilized about 300 employees for its disaster relief and recovery efforts.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): In coordination with State and local agencies and working with Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS has provided 22 boats and 20 staff for search and rescue operations, evacuation, and delivery of food and water to those who could not evacuate. USGS employees in Lafayette, La. are providing relief to the local community and to a refugee camp on the campus of the University of Louisiana.

Using a variety of satellite and aerial photography, USGS geographers are providing coordinates and maps to link 911 calls and pinpoint exact areas where people need rescue. USGS technicians are repairing and replacing damaged stream gauges throughout the region to restore flood warning capacity. USGS scientists are coordinating with federal agencies to provide geospatial information, maps, satellite images, and scientific assessments to help response and recovery operations.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): FWS teams, originally deployed for assessment and restoration of refuges, are now situated at Lacombe LA where they continue to support communities by clearing roads for emergency access, provide a base for local police and fire personnel, provide law enforcement support and assist local officials with search and rescue activities. In the New Orleans area, FWS personnel from Lafayette LA have teamed with the Phoenix Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team; rescuing over 100 sick and disabled individuals.

National Park Service (NPS): NPS has deployed incident management teams to the Jean Lafitte/New Orleans Jazz NHP, Gulf Islands NS, and Everglades National Park to assure safety of the public at these locations. NPS workers have cleared roads to provide emergency access and law enforcement personnel have provided security for a Federal building. NPS responders will provide coordination for all DOI bureaus in New Orleans with the New Orleans Unified Command.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): BIA has assisted the six federally recognized tribes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi affected by the hurricane. BIA is assessing and responding to their public safety, emergency access and emergency services needs. BIA's Eastern Regional Office and Choctaw Agency are coordinating recovery efforts with the Mississippi Choctaw tribal government, whose facilities were severely damaged, and have provided supplies to shelters which were opened for the Tribal community and non-Tribal evacuees.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

JOBS and INCOME SUPPORT for Workers Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

- **Temporary Jobs for Displaced Workers.** The U.S. Department of Labor has provided \$191.1 million in National Emergency Grant (NEG) funding to the affected region to create more than 40,000 temporary jobs to give dislocated workers a paycheck and help them participate in the clean-up and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
 - ✓ Texas: \$75 million to provide Louisiana's workers with temporary jobs and other assistance, including job training, awarded on Sept. 6, 2005.
 - ✓ Louisiana: \$62.1 million for Louisiana's workers, awarded on Sept. 3, 2005.
 - ✓ Mississippi: \$50 million for Mississippi's workers, awarded on Sept. 2, 2005.
 - ✓ Alabama: \$4 million for Alabama's workers, awarded Aug. 31, 2005.
 - ✓ As soon as a NEG grant is approved, funds are transferred to the state.
- **Jobs Fair.** The Dallas Workforce Board has set up a jobs fair to be held Thursday, September 8, at the Dallas convention center. Forty employers have already signed up and additional employers continue to call.
- **Income Support Available to Displaced Workers.** DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is working with state and local officials in the affected areas to ensure that both regular unemployment insurance (UI) and disaster unemployment assistance (DUA) claims are being accepted and paid. Displaced persons can find out how to apply for unemployment and disaster unemployment insurance by calling the toll free number (1-866-4-USA-DOL) or by going to the Hurricane Recovery Assistance Page on DOL's website at www.dol.gov. For those who do not have access to a phone or the Internet, we have teams canvassing neighborhoods, churches and hospitals; teams on-site at displaced person centers; and mobile units at many FEMA sites.

- **Toll-free Help Line (1-866-4-USA-DOL or 1-866-487-2365).** Since Saturday, September 3, 2005, this toll-free help line has been available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thousands of callers are selecting the Disaster Assistance option daily.
- **Occupational Safety and Health.** DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regional staff are continuing to conduct on site visits in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi involving electrical work, repair of power lines, tree trimming operations, roofing, debris removal, and work near roadways.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF HUMANITIES (NEH)

The NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

[Background here: www.neh.gov/whoweare/overview.html]

- The National Endowment for the Humanities will make available **at least \$1 million** in FY 2006 for Emergency Grants to libraries, museums, colleges, universities and other cultural and historical institutions in areas affected by the Hurricane Katrina. Grants of up to \$30,000 each will be available for emergency projects such as the preservation of books, records, manuscripts, art and cultural artifacts that have been damaged or endangered by the disaster. Application details will be made available at the NEH website (www.humanities.gov) next week.
- In addition, NEH Chairman Bruce Cole has authorized immediate **\$30,000 emergency grants to each of the state humanities councils in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.** These funds will help NEH's state affiliates as they begin to recover and assess the situation in their areas.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Emergency Resource Coordination: Evacuation operations in New Orleans are winding down. Today's schedule includes 8 flights provided by three carriers to four destinations in four states (Virginia, Tennessee, Colorado, West Virginia).

DOT is operating bus staging areas at the Poker Palace Texaco in western New Orleans and in Lake Charles, LA. The bus fleet is servicing over a dozen evacuee collection points established by authorities in the greater New Orleans area. As of this morning, the bus fleet which had grown to a total of 1105 units is being downsized by 275 units, with an additional 110 units repositioned to Ft. Smith/Ft. Chaffee, AR. The bus mission continues to evolve as the evacuation approach shifts from collecting large numbers of evacuees at a few sites to fewer evacuees distributed at many locations.

Yesterday, President Bush expanded Federal Emergency Declarations to the following states: Oklahoma, West Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Utah, and Colorado. Consequently, Hours

of Service requirements for truck and bus operators have been suspended in those states for operations related to disaster recovery. DOT is also coordinating with state governments to streamline truck size and weight restriction waivers and providing 120-day temporary waivers to intrastate carriers to allow them to assist with interstate operations.

MID-TERM RECOVERY

Aviation: Operations capability has been restored to all airports in the affected region with the exception of Lakefront (in New Orleans). Two major airports still lack commercial service – Gulfport and New Orleans International. The airport director at Gulfport hopes to be able to resume commercial operations later this week. Resumption of commercial service at New Orleans will depend in part on the need for that airport to continue to support response and recovery.

Highways: The US-11 Bridge linking Slidell to eastern New Orleans has opened to emergency response vehicles. DOT is working with LA officials to let a contract within the next 10 days to begin repair of the heavily damaged I-10 bridge across Lake Ponchartrain. DOT is also working with all four affected states to develop preliminary Emergency Relief (ER) funding estimates for rebuilding damaged highways and bridges.

Ready Reserve Fleet (RRF) Support: Six DOT RRF ships are being provisioned and will sail from various US ports to house and support displaced workers and additional emergency personnel. The first vessel expected on-scene will be the *Sirius*. The crane ship *Diamond State* will launch today from Beaumont, Texas, and will support operations at the Port of New Orleans.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service Tax Relief - The IRS announced special relief for taxpayers in the Presidential Disaster Areas struck by the hurricane. These taxpayers generally will have until October 31 to file tax returns and submit tax payments. The IRS will stop interest and any late filing or late payment penalties that would otherwise apply. This relief includes the September 15 due date for estimated taxes and for calendar-year corporate returns with automatic extensions. On September 2, 2005, the IRS expanded the relief to additional counties and parishes. Areas now eligible for tax relief include 64 Louisiana parishes, 52 Mississippi counties, six Alabama counties, and three Florida counties.

Guidance Encouraging Depository Institutions to Ease Their Customary Identification Requirements – The Treasury Department issued guidance encouraging depository institutions to ease identification requirements for presenting Treasury checks for Social Security benefit payments. Many Social Security and SSI recipients impacted by the storm may be without traditional forms of identification such as a driver's license or other government issued identification. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Treasury Department encourages depository institutions to seek other verification methods for affected customers and are especially encouraged to call the Social Security Administration's national toll-free number with the customer on the line.

Steps to Make Additional Diesel Fuel Available - The Treasury Department and the IRS announced that "dyed diesel fuel" would be permitted for road use. Dyed diesel fuel ordinarily

is not subject to federal excise taxes because it is intended for off-road use in farm equipment or in certain government vehicles such as school buses. It is dyed to distinguish it from diesel fuel intended for road use. The announcement will make available additional supplies of diesel fuel that will help alleviate shortages. The relief applies beginning August 25, 2005, in Florida, August 30, 2005, in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and August 31, 2005, in the rest of the United States, and will remain in effect through September 15, 2005.

Expanded Availability of Housing for Hurricane Victims - The Treasury Department and the IRS announced that they will waive rules that prohibit owners of low-income housing from providing housing to victims of Hurricane Katrina who do not qualify as low-income. The action will expand the availability of housing for disaster victims and their families. Because of the widespread devastation to housing caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Treasury Department and the IRS will temporarily suspend income limitation requirements and non-transient requirements for qualified low-income housing projects located anywhere in the United States.

Relief for Retirement Plans Affected by Katrina - The Treasury Department and the IRS issued guidance that would extend the pension funding deadline for employers in the Katrina-affected region. The pension contribution would generally be due on September 15, but the guidance issued would extend the deadline to at least October 31. The notice was coordinated with the Department of Labor and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, whose corresponding funding deadlines are extended as well.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

Much of the information in this update is available to the public on Social Security's website. To access specific information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov. Clicking on the red and blue box which says: Hurricane Katrina...How Social Security can help will take you immediately to relevant information, which will be updated continuously. Alternatively, a link which will take you immediately to this page is: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency/>

- Seven field offices, the New Orleans TSC, two OHA offices and one DDS in Louisiana remain closed.
- The Louisiana and Texas metropolitan area Third Party Draft (TPD) stock has been stabilized and appears to be sufficient to meet immediate demands.
- SSA has delivered 10 additional workstations to the DDS in Baton Rouge to handle increased evacuee traffic.
- The installation of the satellite site in the Dallas Convention Center took place Monday.
- An evacuee center was set up in Lubbock, Texas on Sunday, 9/4/2005, at the former site of Reese Air Force Base. SSA employees are on site providing service.

- The El Paso, Texas, Convention Center began SSA operations on Sunday, 9/4/05. SSA is actually screening individuals at the front line and then referring them to what was called the “Benefits Section.”
- The Albuquerque, New Mexico, Convention Center has been designated as a shelter for evacuees from New Orleans. The city is taking charge of setting up the ‘Convention Center and has designated space and telephone lines for SSA use.
- To date, 9,612 evacuees have been processed at Kelly USA in San Antonio. SSA has 13 employees out-stationed at Kelly, and 3 at the Levi Strauss center.
- The Baton Rouge office learned from FEMA that two Family Assistance Centers will open today in Louisiana. They will be located at: Monroe Civic Center in Monroe, LA and Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA.
- The manager in Ardmore, OK, reported that 3,000 people will be housed in Davis, OK, which is about 20 miles from Ardmore.
- The public affairs specialists in Dallas and Fort Worth are contacting all shelters in Dallas and Tarrant County, advising that evacuees needing SSA assistance should go to the Dallas Convention Center office.
- The FEMA Sweep Teams have been formed with assistance from Jim Majestic, SSA DM, Temple, Texas. We are getting them inoculated and set up in their dorm which will be in Donaldsonville, LA. They will begin the first shelter visit today at the River Center in Baton Rouge. The local Congressman and state agencies will be there to help.

News from the Atlanta Region:

- The Mississippi DDS is open for business this morning. This is the final DDS in our Region to resume operation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
- The Biloxi, MS, office is expected to open for business on Wednesday, September 7.
- The Biloxi office had very little damage as a result of Katrina and the area in which the DO is located has had power restored.
- Though Gulfport will be closed, the precautions to safeguard the computer work stations and server in anticipation of Katrina were done so well that all computer equipment survived unharmed. We are arranging to have some Gulfport work stations transported to Biloxi so that some Gulfport employees can return to work at that office on Wednesday, again, depending on personal situations. Some Moss Point employees have also indicated that they are ready to return to work, only needing to know where to report. We are working with GSA to open temporary offices in Gulfport and Moss Point as soon as it is feasible.

- SSA is arranging for Systems Coordinators from Areas other than Mississippi to be detailed to Biloxi to help with setting up the Gulfport computers. Biloxi has sufficient operational LAN drops, including the FEI area and IVT room to accommodate a maximum of 35 computers. There is a possibility in the relatively long term of installing as many as 4 - 8 more drops.
- Thanks to CO for arranging the pick up of 15, 000 blank checks at BWI by the AAA, MS ADO, Patsy Wilkerson. Patsy returned with the checks on Sunday, September 4, and the checks were delivered by Mississippi staff on Monday to DOs running short or out of blank check stock. Meridian, Laurel, Hattiesburg, McComb and other DOs in similar situations had their stocks replenished and can resume writing Immediate Payment checks to the public when they open for business today.

VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

- **Procurement Assistance:** We believe that we could use our prime vendor contract (McKesson) to facilitate the procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies (limited) using just in time procurement processes. This option could be exercised through the local VA medical center in support of the temporary medical facilities being established by HHS.
 - Received request from HHS to provide medical supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals to State of Mississippi. VA has ordered the required items and is in the process of making delivery, as requested.
- **Public Health Service Expertise:** VA maintains a staff of expert public health practitioners who could provide consult to the theater of operations, either remotely or (in a more limited capacity) on the ground. VA can provide guidelines and support for immunizations.
 - Activated 17 VA Federal Coordinating Centers for reception and triage of patients to local National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) hospitals. **Through NDMS, the VA has processed 59 evacuation flights and 3,495 patients as detailed below:**
 - VAMC Houston has processed 18 evacuation flights with 667 evacuees.
 - VAMC Dallas has processed 5 evacuation flights with 222 evacuees.
 - **VAMC Atlanta has processed 17 evacuation flights with 1,183 evacuees.**
 - VAMC Birmingham has processed 3 evacuation flights with 159 evacuees.
 - VAMC Little Rock has processed 1 evacuation flight with 20 evacuees.
 - VAMC Miami has processed 1 evacuation flight with 40 evacuees.
 - VAMC Nashville has processed 1 evacuation flight with 104 evacuees.
 - VAMC Orlando / Tampa have processed 1 evacuation flight with 51 evacuees.

- VAMC San Antonio has processed 8 evacuation flights with 317 evacuees.
 - **VA is processing non-NDMS civilian flights into the NDMS hospital system. The following details these flights:**
 - VAMC Albuquerque has processed 1 evacuation flight with 92 evacuees.
 - VAMC Amarillo has processed 1 evacuation flight with 143 evacuees.
 - VAMC Phoenix has processed 4 evacuation flights with 530 patients.
 - West Texas VAHCS has processed 1 evacuation flight with 73 patients.
- **Environmental Expertise:** VA has environmental and engineering experts who have been trained to support decontamination for radiologic, chemical, and biologic events. These experts could provide remote consultation or (in a more limited capacity) on the ground. This may be especially useful in New Orleans where certain facilities, now flooded, may contain radiologic, chemical, or biologic materials that require expertise in identification and disposal. VA's MERRT teams could provide special (on the ground) expertise in the disposal of radioactive materials.
- **Staffed Beds:** VA could provide a combined total of 3,534 beds from its 157 VA hospitals, although VA is anticipating an increase in veteran's admissions both within the affected area, and due to self-evacuated veterans, outside of the disaster area. This could also decrease this bed availability in the coming days.
- **Staffing:** VA has slightly over 750 personnel who have already volunteered to support medical requirements in the aftermath of this event. We are mobilizing approximately 150 of these personnel to support four VA hospitals in the affected area. VA anticipates that a formal call from Secretary of HHS (through VA) would encourage many more of VA's 60,000 nurses and 13,000 physicians and other health care personnel to volunteer. VA would work closely with HHS and VA medical center directors to ensure that those volunteers that can be released from primary mission (direct healthcare of veterans) are identified to HHS in response to HHS's specific identification of need.
 - HHS request: Provide 104 Medical Personnel to staff a 500-bed facility being established for New Orleans at the Airport. Request for personnel was sent to all VISNs - Confirming numbers.
 - HHS request: Provide 342 Medical Personnel to staff 10 250 bed contingency hospitals. Identified 718 personnel that are available to be deployed within 24 hours of notification during two-week period (Sept 2 – Sept 18). Working to match requirements in all specialties.
 - HHS request: Provide 10 Respiratory Therapists for duty at disaster area hospitals. Status: Working to meet request.
 - **HHS request: Provide 12 Mental Health professionals to the State of Mississippi. Staff have been identified are preparing for deployment.**

- Deployed 45 Medical Personnel to the VAMC Biloxi. Area Emergency Managers (AEM)s deployed to set up logistics and reception; communications van deployed from Tampa to establish communications; Trailers ordered by EMSHG and being delivered to house deploying medical personnel.
 - Deployed 24 Medical Personnel to VAMC Jackson. **30 additional personnel are scheduled to be deployed.** Logistics base established. Additional EMSHG AEMs have deployed and set up reception and support deployed personnel. Trailers ordered by EMSHG and being delivered to house deploying personnel.
 - **Deployed 11 medical personnel to Alexandria VAMC, with 84 scheduled to be deployed.**
 - **Deployed 27 medical personnel to Houston VAMC, with additional 84 personnel scheduled for deployment.**
 - **Deployed 3 personnel to Jennings, LA clinic.**
 - **Tasked to provide five (5) AEMs to staff FEMA Region 4 NDMS EOCs. Staff identified and ready to deploy; awaiting formal MA from HHS.**
 - Deployed additional AEMs to Houston FCC and Atlanta FCC to support NDMS tasking.
 - Deployed AEM to Shreveport VAMC to provide logistics support.
 - Deployed AEM and MA to EMSHG HQ to augment staffing to sustain 24/7 operations.
 - Received mission assignment 250 medical personnel to deploy to 8 hospitals in Mississippi. However, mission assignment was to ESF 8 and was forwarded with no specific requirement to VA. Have requested the VA liaison to HHS to clarify and provide VA tasking (if any).
- **Counseling Services:** Through the Readjustment Counseling Centers (a.k.a. “Vet Centers”), VA can provide expert counseling services for those conditions frequently encountered in disaster situations (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, depression). Vet Center staff can also provide general support to disseminate information on the ground about services available and to interface with families. At this moment, 18 Vet Center staff are have volunteered to provide such services.
 - **Facilities:** VA has 157 hospitals around the country that could meet a variety of needs including staffed beds, unstaffed beds that could be used if staffing were provided, and heated/cooled space. VA is eager to work with other Federal agencies to meet whatever needs emerge.
 - Provide 40,000 square foot of space to house 2 contingency hospitals at Alexandria VAMC. Space has been provided.
 - Coordinating with VISN 16 and NAC on requirement for shelter for VA personnel (600 staff) to be housed at Alexandria VAMC. Specific requirements being formulated by VAMC Alexandria.
 - VA has facility management and environmental teams in the Biloxi and Gulf Port areas assessing damage.
 - **VA has deployed two (2) mobile clinics to Lafayette, LA and Jennings, LA and is deploying three (3) more to Hattiesburg, MS, Hammond, LA and**

McComb, MS. There towns are strategically positioned around the New Orleans area.

- See **Enclosure 1** for an initial list of capability by location.
- **Replacement Checks:** VA has a system in place to issue replacement checks to those who did not receive their monthly disability payments.
- **Residences for Disaster Victim Use:** VA owns approximately **5,000** single-family residences throughout the US that could be made available for temporary occupancy by victims of the disaster through a MOA with FEMA.
 - VA has determined that 2,000 single-family residences are in the nine (9) states surrounding the disaster area and is ascertaining their condition.
- **Mortgage Counselors:** VA Home Loan Program has Loan Specialists and specific guidelines to help veterans who are in need of assistance on matters relating to their VA home loans. VA works with lenders/loan servicers about the guidelines they are expected to adhere to during a protracted disaster recovery period.
- **National Cemeteries:** VA has a number of cemeteries that can be used to bury veterans.
- **Mortuary Specialists:** VA can assemble teams of mortuary specialist to assist state and local authorities.
- **Clean-up crews with equipment:** VA can assemble teams of clean-up crews with their own equipment.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (USPS)

The U.S. Postal Service continues to take action on several fronts to respond to the disruption of postal services in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and to assist postal employees in the affected areas. Postal Service officials at the national and local levels are making every effort to assist citizens, restore retail and delivery services to the affected areas and ensure the safety of our employees.

- Postal officials on the ground in the disaster area continue to assess the hurricane's impact on postal operations and facilities, particularly in New Orleans where we are now able to access our facilities. With the exception of greater New Orleans, southern Mississippi, and portions of Alabama, postal operations in other affected areas have returned to normal.
- Postal district officials are contacting employees in all affected areas to determine their well being and make sure they are paid, and have received more than 3,000 calls from those employees at the toll-free number established: 1-877-477-3273. Employee

Assistance Program (EAP) counselors are assisting employees in the affected areas. Postal employees can call 1-800-EAP-4-YOU to receive information and assistance.

- Where possible we have re-established postal services in alternate locations. We also are assisting customers in submitting temporary change-of-addresses and to date have assisted 36,000 evacuees. Commercial mailers are being kept up to date on service availability and alternate arrangements via our website, *USPS.com*.
- We continue to work with local, state and federal authorities, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross to locate those persons – including our own employees – who are now homeless.
- The check pick-up sites established with the Social Security Administration in Southeast Louisiana and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast have been successful and distribution dates at some Louisiana sites have been extended through Thursday, Sept. 8. Check recipients displaced or unable to receive regular mail delivery learned about the service through national and local news releases and information at postal facilities.
- Working with the city of Houston, we have established mail service at the Houston Astrodome and the George R. Brown Convention Center for evacuated New Orleans residents being sheltered there.
- We continue efforts to account for displaced Postal Service employees and have established a toll-free number, **1-877-477-3272**, for employees to provide us with contact information so we can pay employees who normally receive paper checks, and to contact them regarding work information as conditions stabilize. This number has been widely disseminated by the media.
- Our website, *USPS.com*, has been a repository for information regarding the status of mail service in affected areas, and we have established a more robust information gathering tool to provide more specific information to the public about the retail and delivery status of all Post Offices and ZIP Codes in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. A color-coded map showing “Full Service,” “No Service” or “Partial Service” is updated twice daily.
- We are urging customers who have relocated as a result of the storm to submit change-of-address information so we can keep their mail coming to them. Forms are being distributed as customers pick up their Social Security checks at the locations identified in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- In Fort Chaffee, Ark., the homeless were registered by the Social Security Administration, checked by doctors and given Post Office boxes.

EOC about to go into a new mode of operations from emergency to more “normal” operation – Centers may not go through HQ EOC, as per normal operations

- Plane from Washington to Stennis tomorrow morning arriving with Administrator Griffin, Deputy Administrator Gregory, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Williams and a few others – (along with some equipment and medical supplies)
 - They’ll then do a helicopter trip to Michoud
 - Then they’ll fly back to Washington late tomorrow afternoon
- Stennis status:
 - Employee status – 233 of 290 civil servant accounted for (30 homeless)
 - FEMA is still in search and rescue mode, not in the home placement mode yet (which is highly unusual for a natural disaster)
 - Most of the people without homes are staying at Stennis since they have no place to go
 - Less than 50 evacuees at Stennis (people with no affiliation with Stennis) and are schedule to be relocated by COB today to an appropriate shelter
 - Power back on at Stennis from commercial power, but only at about 50% of normal loads
 - Careful management of power in place to make sure reliable use of grid
 - Generators are still running at some buildings, diesel supply chain secure
 - HQ Environmental Team needs to go to Stennis to evaluate water treatment capability (above what Stennis was designed to normally handle)
 - Facility teams need to do a full assessment of all facilities
 - Joint Task Force (DoD), headed by Adm. Tim McGee, at Stennis to help with clean up facilities-sewage treatment , water treatment to deal with the high influx of people at Stennis
 - HQ EOC wants to evaluate offering PPS relocation to a center of their choice to the 27 NASA personnel at Stennis without homes
- HQ EOC says Michoud has a growing supply concern

- Helicopters will not be able to continue supply runs
- An evaluation of health concerns at Michoud needs to be done
- Michoud status:
 - 250 Marines on site - They're helping with clean up and repairs
 - Power on in building 420, tarps are on roof – Air conditioning will be on soon
 - Michoud coordinating supply lists
 - Potable water coming from KSC
 - Making slow progress on getting facility back on the power grid
 - Telephone connection a little spotty, but maintenance work will take place today – Satellite phones still will work
 - 100% of NASA personnel accounted for, five are homeless
 - Land routes into Michoud may not be reliable yet – Large vehicles can get in with difficulty but they require security escorts
 - Marines will help open land routes – Will need another day or two to work it
 - Water route will soon be available
 - 10 person team from KSC arriving today with equipment and perishable food
 - New helicopter and crew arriving today – Old helicopter back at KSC for maintenance
 - All waterways into Michoud are likely closed
 - A government emergency assessment is ongoing and should be done by tomorrow
 - 75% of Michoud personnel accounted for as of last night
 -

PEACE CORPS

Number of Crisis Corps Volunteers continues to rise

In response to Peace Corps/Crisis Corps' September 2 appeal to over 2,400 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV), 267 have responded. Of that number, 151 are ready for immediate deployment while 116 are available but not for immediate deployment. All volunteers are being asked to commit for a minimum of 30 days. Peace Corps is in the process of contacting, interviewing, checking references and working on travel and funding logistics for immediate deployment through FEMA.

Deployment: This week

Upon the expected completion of the mission agreement with FEMA, Peace Corps is prepared beginning as early as tomorrow to deploy the first 25 volunteers. Volunteers will be deployed to Florida, trained through FEMA and then re-assigned to affected areas.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

OUTREACH

The SBA Office of Government Contracting and Business Development is hosting a meeting today with associations with the goal of leveraging our resources to allow for businesses to help businesses. The meeting will be held at 3 at SBA headquarters. Expected to attend are: Pan-Asian-American Chamber, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber, Black Chamber of Commerce, NFIB and the National Chamber of Commerce.

The SBA continues to hire disaster employees; to date we have hired 339 employees to work in the impacted areas and this number will continue to grow daily.